

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1362

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 1037

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OEX PINT CY

SUBJECT: CYPRUS FULBRIGHT PROGRAM

REF: A) NICOSIA 715; B) STATE 041975

1. SUMMARY: DENKTASH HAS INFORMED AMBASSADOR OF TURK CYPRIOT REFUSAL TO ACCEPT LEDRA PALACE COMPROMISE AND OF HIS COMMUNITY'S INTENTION NOT TO PARTICIPATE IN FULBRIGHT SCHOLARSHIPS. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS COMMISSION PROCEED WITH OFFERING IS YEAR'S SCHOLARSHIPS TO GREEK CYPRIOTS WHILE HOLDING OUT POSSIBILITY TO TURKS OF FUTURE RETURN. END SUMMARY.

2. ALTHOUGH UNABLE BECAUSE OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS TO DISCUSS IN PERSON LEDRA PALACE PROCEDURE DESCRIBED REF A, AMBASSADOR PROPOSED THIS COMPROMISE SOLUTION IN MARCH 4 LETTER TO DENKTASH. AMBASSADOR POINTED OUT THAT LEDRA PALACE SUGGESTION WAS ATTEMPT TO MEET GENUINE SECURITY CONCERNS OF TURKISH CYPRIOTS WHILE PRESERVING LONG STANDING AND UNIQUE BI-COMMUNAL FLAVOR OF CYPRUS PROGRAM. ALSO NOTED THA UNSYG SPECIAL REP HAD APPROVED USE OF LEDRA FOR THIS PURPOSE.

3. IN MARCH 11 LETTER DENKTASH REPLIED THAT AMBASSADOR'S SUGGESTION HAD BEEN CAREFULLY CONSIDERED BUT "THAT UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES AT PRESENT PREVAILING ON THE ISLAND IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR US TO PARTICIPATE IN A MIXED SELECTION BOARD AS SUGGESTED IN YOUR LETTER." (COMMENT: DENKTASH LINE CONSISTENT WITH EARLIER LETTER RECEIVED FROM TURKISH CYPRIOT "MINISTER OF EDUCATION" SAYING "IN VIEW ESTABLISHMENT OF CYPRUS TURKISH FEDERATED STATE, WE WILL BE UNABLE SEND OUT STUDENTS FOR INTERVIEWS TO THE FUL-
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BRIGHT OFFICE." LETTER CONTINUED THAT TURKISH CYPRIOTS FEEL

THAT EXECUTIVE AGREEMENTS ESTABLISHING FULBRIGHT COMMISSION IS NOW INOPERATIVE AND REQUESTED THEY BE OFFERED THEIR SHARE OF AMERICAN SCHOLARSHIPS DIRECTLY. OTHERWISE, LETTER NOTED, TURKS WOULD NOT PARTICIPATE.)

4. EMBASSY APPRECIATES LONG TRADITION OF TRI-NATIONALISM IN CYPRUS FULBRIGHT PROGRAM -- IN FACT HAS EXPENDED MUCH EFFORT TO MAINTAIN DELICATE BALANCE OF GREEK AND TURKISH CYPRIOT PARTICIPATION. WE FEEL, HOWEVER, THAT TURKISH CYPRIOTS ARE DETERMINED TO PROVE A POLITICAL POINT BY THEIR REFUSAL TO ACCEPT REASONABLE COMPROMISE ON THIS ISSUE.

5. EMBASSY ALSO STRONGLY BELIVES THAT IT IS NOT RPT NOT IN USG INTEREST TO CANCEL PROGRAM FOR GREEK CYPRIOTS NOW. SUCH A MOVE WOULD BE WIDELY PUBLICIZED AS TURKISH-AMERICAN COLLUSION TO DENY SCHOLARSHIPS TO GREEK CYPRIOTS. INSTEAD WE PROPOSE THAT AMBASSADOR REPLY TO DENKTASH LETTER, REGRETTING TURKISH CYPRIOT DECISION NOT TO PARTICIPATE "UNDER PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES" BUT ASSURING HIM THAT WE WILL WELCOME TURKISH CYPRIOT PARTICIPATION IN FUTURE.

6. WE THEN RECOMMEND PROCEEDING AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WITH SCHOLARSHIP COMPETITION FOR FALL 1975 CANDIDATES, OFFERING ALL SCHOLARSHIPS IN GREEK CYPRIOT SECTOR. EMBASSY FEELS THIS PROCEDURE SHOULD BE FOLLOWED FOR THIS YEAR; FUTURE YEARS AND SOME SORT OF POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IN CYPRUS WILL UNDOUBTEDLY BRING ABOUT REVISION OF EXCHANGE AGREEMENTS.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY REQUESTED DEPARTMENT CONCURRENCE ON ABOVE APPROACH AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN ORDER ISSUE MAY BE BROUGHT UP AND CONFIRMED AT FULBRIGHT BOARD'S NEXT MEETING DURING WEEK OF MARCH 24.
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